

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 163303 TOSEC 060102

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 (ISO) R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:L.MATTESON: COS

APPROVED BY S/S-O:L.MATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 163303 TOSEC 060102

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 3911 ACTION SECSTATE INFO NATO
JUL 11.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 3911

PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGAL: SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE FOR JULY 11

REF: LISBON 3905

1. RECOMMEND THAT AT JULY 11 NOON BRIEFING DEPARTMENT
PRESS SPOKESMAN RESPOND AS FOLLOWS TO QUESTIONS I ASSUME WILL
BE ASKED ABOUT SOCIALIST DEPARTURE FROM PORTUGUESE PROVISIONAL
GOVERNMENT.

-- QUESTION: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT
ON THE SOCIALISTS' WALKOUT FROM THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT?

-- ANSWER: WE REGARD THIS AS A VERY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE
SITUATION IN PORTUGAL.

AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE REASONS WHICH IMPELLED THE SOCIALIST
PARTY TO LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT ARE SERIOUS ONES. ASSURANCES WERE
GIVEN, THEN NOT KEPT REGARDING THE NEWSPAPER "REPUBLICA."

YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE SECRETARY SOME TIME AGO

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EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN OVER A POSSIBLE NON-DEMOCRATIC

EVOLUTION OF EVENTS IN PORTUGAL. AS THE APRIL ELECTIONS
DEMONSTRATED, THE SOCIALISTS ARE BY FAR THE LARGEST PARTY
IN PORTUGAL. THEIR DEPARTURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE
IS BOUND TO CAUSE APPREHENSION AND CONCERN OVER THE COURSE
OF EVENTS IN LISBON.

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UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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